



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES AIR FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND
AL UDEID AIR BASE QATAR

5 September 2013

To the Men and Women of United States Air Forces Central Command

It is my great honor to return to the region to lead the men and women of United States Air Forces Central Command. I am deeply appreciative of your service, your sacrifice and your professionalism in providing crucial and time-sensitive air, space and cyberspace capabilities to the Commander, United States Central Command. Our ability to provide regionally focused, decisive airpower and executable options will continue to play a pivotal role in USCENTCOM missions as we responsibly transition Operation ENDURING FREEDOM while supporting a regionally integrated, secure and stable Afghanistan. Defeating extremist organizations, denying terrorists freedom of movement and limiting the reach of terrorism will remain top priorities as we simultaneously strive with our partners to increase our collective capacity. The task at hand is great, the challenges complex and every Airman, DoD Civilian and Contractor remains critical to our enduring success. This message will restate our mission, outline our vision and establish our priorities for the remainder of our time together.

MISSION

United States Air Forces Central Command, in concert with our partners, delivers decisive airpower for United States Central Command, Coalition nations and America.

VISION

United States Air Forces Central Command will provide tailored and adaptable support to United States Central Command's evolving priorities in the region. We will anticipate and respond to the Commander's emerging requirements and intent. We will fully leverage the unique capabilities that our Air Component brings to the region, while empowering an integrated and fully capable Joint and Coalition team. Finally, we will stand ready, engaged and vigilant to lead, support and ensure the success of USCENTCOM missions.

PRIORITIES

DECISIVE AIRPOWER -- Deliver full spectrum, coalition airpower in a proactive and responsive manner in support of USCENTCOM campaign plans in Afghanistan and throughout the USCENTCOM area of responsibility

DEFEND THE REGION -- Continuously collaborate with our partners to improve and strengthen Integrated Air and Missile Defense capabilities across the region

DEFEND THE BASE -- Remain ever vigilant and resilient in defending installation personnel, critical command and control elements, and base infrastructure against traditional and asymmetric threats

PREPARE -- Aggressively plan, prepare and present executable options to the Commander while standing ready to lead or support USCENTCOM contingency operations

DISCIPLINE AND PROFESSIONALISM -- Flight discipline, maintenance discipline, personal discipline and consummate professionalism are paramount in a combat theater; our fellow warriors rely on us and our missions demand it

PROTECT AND TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER -- From the battlefield to the home front, you have no greater priority than protecting and taking care of your brothers and sisters in arms

As we continue to deliver decisive airpower, defend the region, defend the base and prepare for contingency operations with precision and professionalism, it is imperative that we look out for one another. My tolerance for Airmen hurting other Airmen is zero. We are a family, brothers and sisters dedicated to a common purpose. Whether serving your first AOR tour or one of many, remain proud and resilient in your endeavors. Serving our nation, and each other, is among the most honorable and relevant of callings. I am exceptionally proud of how well you execute our mission. Your professionalism, service and selfless sacrifice are truly world class. I expect nothing less.

With Great Respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. W. Hesterman III', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOHN W. HESTERMAN III
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander